



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

April 29, 2005

# News Release

## **ICE AGENTS ARREST 2 AFTER CAR CHASE**

*Suspect tries to elude agents by jumping curb and speeding down Manhattan Blvd.*

NEW ORLEANS, La. — Two local residents are facing federal charges after U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents—assisted by the FBI, U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Customs and Border Protection—arrested them for allegedly sending large amounts of fraudulent money orders to Jordan.

During their arrests, a male defendant attempted to elude ICE New Orleans Special Response Tactical (SRT) team members in his vehicle, striking an ICE vehicle in the process and narrowly missing other agents. The subject was apprehended shortly afterwards.

A second suspect was identified as a 24 year-old Middle Eastern female who allegedly delivered large amounts of money orders to a co-defendant for shipment to Jordan. ICE New Orleans agents had previously intercepted a suspicious package, which contained 1,055 \$500 money orders totaling \$527,500. The ICE investigation also revealed that the fraudulent money orders belonged to a Jordanian male and were being sent to the Middle East. ICE SRT team members apprehended the female without incident.

In addition to facing federal charges in Louisiana, the man is also wanted in Florida for similar violations. If convicted, he faces up to five years in federal prison. The female defendant was charged in the Eastern District of Louisiana with Possessing Counterfeit Securities. The U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana may also charge one of the suspects with assault on a federal agent stemming from a car pursuit.

"Currency smuggling is indicative of an ongoing criminal enterprise," said Special Agent-in-Charge Michael A. Holt, of the ICE New Orleans office. "It's possible that this money may have ultimately ended up financing a terrorist group or another criminal enterprise. Our office will continue to diligently pursue individuals that attempt to threaten the financial security of the United States."

Both defendants are now being held in Orleans Parish Prison. Since the case remains under investigation, various details, including the names of those arrested, are intentionally omitted from publication.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*